

REMARKS

A. 35 U.S.C. § 103

1. Claims 1, 4-10, 12, 13 and 16

Claims 1, 4-10, 12, 13 and 16 were finally rejected in the Final Office Action of January 20, 2004, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Current et al. and Manini.

Applicant traverses the rejection for the same reasons given in his Appeal Brief filed on November 22, 2004. Despite the impropriety of the rejection, claims 1 and 16 have been canceled rendering their rejections moot. Claims 4-6, 8-10 and 13 have been amended so as to depend from allowed claim 2 and so dependent claims 7 and 12 depend indirectly on allowed claim 2. Since claims 4-10, 12 and 13 depend directly or indirectly on allowed claim 2, the rejection should be withdrawn and the claims should be allowed.

Please note that the amendments made to claims 4-6, 8-10 and 13 are being presented to provide additional coverage for the operation device of claim 2 and so the amendments are not being presented for reasons of patentability as defined in *Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd.*, 234 F.3d 558, 56 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. 2000) (*en banc*), *overruled in part*, 535 U.S. 722 (2002).

2. Claim 11

Claim 11 was finally rejected in the Final Office Action of January 20, 2004, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Current et al. and Manini. Applicant traverses the rejection for the same reasons given in his Appeal Brief filed on November 22, 2004. Despite the impropriety of the rejection, claim 11 now depends indirectly on allowed claim 2 and so the rejection should be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

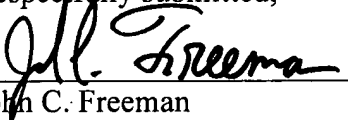
B. Claims 2, 3, 14, 15 and 17

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 2, 3, 14, 15 and 17 have been allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the arguments above, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims 2-15 and 17 are in condition for allowance and seek an early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorneys at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,



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